THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The Government are implementing a project with Italian assistance for improving the production and quality of olive in India. Olive will be grown in the districts of Srinagar and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir, Kullu and Chamba in Himachal Pradesh and Dehradun and Nainital in Uttar Pradesh with Italian technology.

(c) Indian olive varieties are low yielders with less quantity of oil while Italian varieties are high yielders with more oil content.

(d) The total cost of the project is around Rs. 7 crore, about 25 per cent of which will be borne by the concerned State Governments and the balance will be provided through Italian assistance.

WASTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES DUE TO NON-AVAILABLITY OF PROPER STORAGE

698. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fruits and vegetables grown in the country are being wasted due to non-availability of propoer storage facilities in the country; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) As the subject matter of strogae of fruits and vegetables is not within the purview of this Ministry, the Ministry has no information on the subject.

SHARING OF GANGA WATER BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLA-

699. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister of India and President of Bangladesh have reached an understanding on the question of sharing of Ganga Waters at Farakka; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The understanding reached between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Bangladesh envisages Ministeral level talks between the two countries regarding a joint study of the available river water resources common to both countries including a long term scheme for augmentation of the flows of the Ganga at Farakka and the sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka.

SKIMMED MILK POWDER

700. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Dairy Corporation, a Government of India enterprise, has been given the authority to import skimmed milk powder;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Dairy Corporation decides the policy and prices of allotment of the imported skimmed milk powder to the State Governments; and